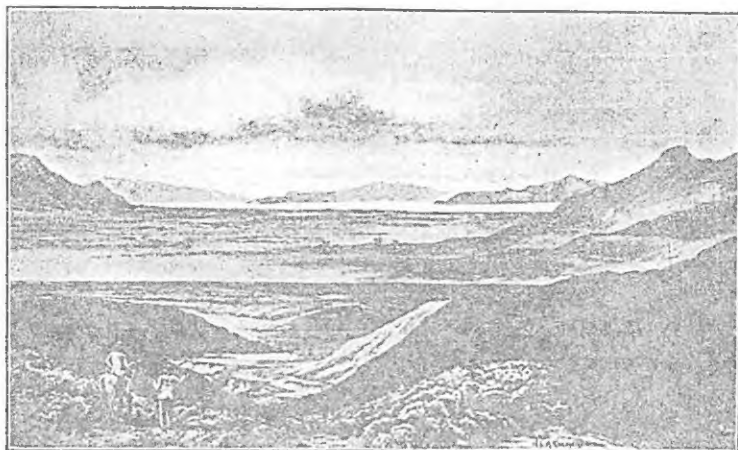


2. The Pioneers.

1847—1849.

Great Salt Lake Valley. It was a hot July morning in the year 1847. The Valley of the Great Salt Lake was sleeping in the sunlight. There lay the burning plain, surrounded by snow-capped mountains, and the blue lake, flashing back the summer sunbeams; but not a house, not even a tree, that could be called a tree,



SALT LAKE VALLEY IN 1847.

cast its lone shadow on hill or valley. There loomed old Ensign Peak, as it had loomed for ages, but no flag waved from its summit, no city nestled at its base. North, south, east, and west, as far as the eye could reach, no sign of human life was visible. All was silence, solitude, and desolation.

But the deep sleep of centuries is about to be

it. I crawled for some distance on my hands and knees through the thickets, until I was compelled to return, admonished to by the rattle of a snake, which lay coiled up under my nose, having almost put my hand on him; but as he gave me the friendly warning, I thanked him and retreated.

"We raised on to a high point south of the narrows, where we got a view of the Great Salt Lake and this valley, and each of us, without saying a word to the other, instinctively, as if by inspiration, raised our hats from our heads, and then, swinging our hats, shouted."



THE PIONEERS ENTERING THE SALT LAKE VALLEY, JULY 24, 1847
BY J. B. FAIRBANKS

Pratt and Snow entered the valley and went south to Mill Creek to examine what had appeared from the distance to be fields of waving grain. But upon inspection, they proved to be merely canes growing near the bank of a stream. Recalling their leader's instructions, they retraced their steps to the mouth of Emigration Canyon.

Then Pratt continued the journey alone to the present site of Salt Lake City while Snow went in search of his coat which had fallen from the saddle. After standing on the spot where the temple was later erected, Pratt joined Snow where they had parted earlier in the day. Together they returned to their companions in Emigration Canyon, arriving there late in the evening.

Early in the morning of July 22, Orson Pratt, George A. Smith, and seven others entered the valley and encamped on the banks of Canyon Creek. From here they